Hostel for blind students

1363. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 30 residents of a blind students hostel of Sewa Kutir in North Delhi, had fallen sick after eating hostel food on November 11, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the management of the said hostel?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) The Hostel for college going Blind Boys is a non-custodial and non-statutory institution run by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. As per the information furnished by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 30 students of the Hostel at Sewa Kutir Complex had fallen sick on the night of 10 November 2003. The cause of illness could not be linked to the hostel food as some of the students fell ill although they did not eat in the hostel on the day of incident.

The students were admitted in the Bara Hindu Rao Hospital in batches on different dates and they were finally discharged from the hospital on 16.11.2003. The hospital authorities had mainly diagnosed the illness that the students were suffering from as gastro enteritis.

(c) The Government of National Capital Terriotory of Delhi has shifted the superintendent and Welfare Officer posted at the Hostel and samples of the food served at the hostel have also been sent for analysis.

Reservation for economically backward higher classes

1364. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any propsoal for providing reservation to the economically backward higher classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) The Government have approved, in principle, amendments to the Constitution to provide reservation to Econmically Backward Classes (EBCs) not covered by the existing Reservation Policy. The Government has also decided to set up a Commission which would elicit the views of the State Government/UTs and others, suggest quantum of reservation as well as criteria for identification of EBCs etc. The Commission will submit its report one year from the date of its appointment. Further action regarding amendments to the Constitution can be taken up only after the proposed Commission submits its report.

(c) Does not arise.

Quota for economically backward classes

1365. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Constitution is to be amended to provide quota for the economically backward classes;

(b) if so, the criteria for selection in this regard; and

(c) by when the matter is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (c) The Central Government have approved in prinicple reservation to Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) not covered by the existing Reservation Policy. The Government have also approved the proposal for setting up a Commission which would elicit the views of the State Government/UTs and others, suggest a quantum of reservation as well as criteria for identification of EBCs etc. The Commission will submit its report within one year from the date of its appointment. Further action regarding amendments to the Constitution can be taken up only after the proposed Commission submits its report.